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19 MAY 1948

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GENERAL

1. Arab League reportedly considering oil sanctions against US--
US Embassy Cairo has been informed by an attache of the Arab League that the matter of applying sanctions against US oil interests in the Middle East is now a major item on the Arab League agenda. The attache expressed the opinion that sanctions will not be applied unless the US takes further steps to assist the Jews and serious reversals are suffered by the Arab armies. In such an eventuality, the attache anticipates that Arab leaders will have no choice but "to use oil as a weapon to assist the Arab cause."
2. US cease-fire proposal for Palestine lacks support--The US delegation to the UN has learned that the US cease-fire proposal for Palestine would not have obtained the seven Security Council votes necessary for its approval if it had been brought to a vote on 18 May. The delegation gathers that Belgium, Canada, China, Syria, the UK, and possibly Argentina would have either voted against the US resolution or abstained.
3. Adjournment of Austrian treaty negotiations postponed--UK Foreign Minister Bevin has asked US Ambassador Douglas that no move be made at this time to suspend the Austrian treaty talks in London. Bevin explained that in a 20 May speech he plans to dwell at length on Soviet delaying tactics in Austria and to indicate at the same time that the machinery still exists for a prompt settlement. In view of Bevin's request, Douglas will await further instructions before making any proposal for adjournment of the treaty discussions.

The US delegation to the Austrian treaty discussions reports, however, that because there is no indication that the Soviet delegate has received new instructions which would make possible the resumption of negotiations, the US, the UK, and French deputies agree that continuation of the talks would be futile.

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